

OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTER- NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

Edited by

FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.
Secretary to the Commission

VOLUME 5. Part 5. Pp. 57—70

OPINION 244

Suppression, under the Plenary Powers, of the generic name *Coriscus* Schrank, 1796, for the purpose of validating the generic name *Alydus* Fabricius, 1803 (Class Insecta, Order Hemiptera)



LONDON :

Printed by Order of the International Trust for
Zoological Nomenclature
and

Sold on behalf of the International Commission on Zoological
Nomenclature by the International Trust at its Publications Office
41, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7
1954

Price Five Shillings and Threepence

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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

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OPINION 244

SUPPRESSION, UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS, OF THE
GENERIC NAME "CORISCUS" SCHRANK, 1796, FOR
THE PURPOSE OF VALIDATING THE GENERIC
NAME "ALYDUS" FABRICIUS, 1803 (CLASS
INSECTA, ORDER HEMIPTERA)

RULING :—(1) Under the Plenary Powers, the generic name *Coriscus* Schrank, 1796 (Class Insecta, Order Hemiptera), is hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy, thereby providing a status of priority for *Alydus* Fabricius, 1803.

(2) The generic name *Alydus* Fabricius, 1803 (gender of name : masculine) (type species, by selection by Curtis, 1831 : *Cimex calcaratus* Linnaeus, 1758), is hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* as Name No. 670.

(3) The name *Coriscus* Schrank, 1796, as suppressed under (1) above, is hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* as Name No. 64.

(4) The entry on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* of the name *Nabis* Latreille, [1802—1803], made under the directions given in *Opinion* 104, is hereby confirmed.

(5) The specific name *calcaratus* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Cimex calcaratus*, is hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* as Name No. 63.

I.—THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On 30th June 1943 the Royal Entomological Society of London published Part 8 of the work entitled *The Generic Names of British Insects*. This Part contained the Eighth Report of the Society's Committee on Generic Nomenclature¹ covering the First Report of its Hemiptera Sub-Committee.² This Report dealt exclusively with the generic names of the British Hemiptera-Heteroptera. In the first of two Appendices annexed to the Sub-Committee's Report were two proposals for the use, by the International Commission, of its Plenary Powers. The first of these proposals was concerned with the generic name *Alydus* Fabricius, 1803, and it is this name which forms the subject of the present *Opinion*. The recommendations contained in the Hemiptera Sub-Committee's Report were formally submitted to the International Commission by Mr. D. N. Riley, Secretary to the Royal Entomological Society of London, on 23rd August 1943. The case of the name *Alydus* Fabricius was dealt with twice in the foregoing work, first, in the paper written by Dr. W. E. China (: 231—233) annexed to Sub-Committee's Report, and, second, by the Sub-Committee itself (: 214—215). These two passages are reproduced below. It must be noted however that, as explained in paragraph 2 below, the actual terms of the proposal prepared by the Sub-Committee for the consideration of the International Commission (i.e. the proposal set out in the last paragraph of the second of the two documents given below) were revised by the Sub-Committee in 1944 before the Sub-Committee's application was printed in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*. It was accordingly this revised proposal, the text of which is given in paragraph 2 of the present *Opinion* which was submitted to the International

¹ The composition of the Committee on Generic Nomenclature at the time of the submission of this Report was the same as it had been at the time of the completion of its Sixth Report. Its composition at the latter date has been given in footnote 1 to *Opinion* 243 (: 48).

² The Hemiptera Sub-Committee at the time of the submission of this Report was composed of : Dr. W. E. China ; Mr. E. E. Green.

Commission, and not the original proposal published in *The Generic Names of British Insects*, as set out below :—

(a) On the status of the name “*Alydus*” Fabricius, 1803 (Class Insecta, Order Hemiptera)

By W. E. CHINA, M.A.

(Assistant Keeper in the Department of Entomology, British Museum (Natural History))

Alydus Fabricius, 1803

Fabricius, 1803, *Syst. Rhyng.* : 251.

Curtis, 1831, *Brit. Ent.* : 369.

Type (fixed by Curtis)=*Cimex calcaratus* Linnaeus, 1758.

It is necessary to discuss here the status of the genus *Coriscus* Schrank, 1796 (*Samml. nat. phys. Aufsätze* 1 : 121), which Kirkcaldy and Stichel used in place of *Alydus* Fabricius. This genus was originally based on a single species represented by figures 2 & 3 of Tab. 123 in Schaeffer, (1776—1779), *Icon. Insect. Ratisbon.* Schrank declared, however, that these figures did not represent *Cimex calcaratus* Linnaeus as had been stated by Fabricius and De Geer but an insect which he proceeded to describe (under the new generic name *Coriscus*) as “*Möhren-sichelwanze*”. His description of the new genus and species differed from *Cimex calcaratus* Linnaeus in several important structural points, notably in the sickle-shaped curve of the rostrum, in the tri- instead of quadri-segmentation of the rostrum, in the unarmed femora, and in the smaller size. One of Schaeffer’s figures certainly does show a strongly curved rostrum quite different from that of *Alydus calcaratus*, but in colour the figure is quite a reasonable representation of the Linnaean species. Schrank’s colour description of the species also agrees well with *Alydus calcaratus* Linnaeus. In 1801 Schrank (*Fauna Boica* 2 (1) : 99) applied the Latin name *Coriscus dauci* to his “*Möhren-sichelwanze*” which automatically became the genotype of *Coriscus* in spite of the fact that Schrank at the same time included a new species *Coriscus crassipes* and suggested that *Cimex subapterus* De Geer also belonged to this genus. In 1888 Reuter (*Act. Soc. Sci. Fenn.* 15 : 759) fixed the type of *Coriscus* as *C. dauci* Schrank 1801, thereby ending any argument as to the validity of the above automatic citation. Reuter, however, although he admitted important structural differences, sank *Coriscus dauci* Schrank, 1801 as a synonym of *Alydus calcaratus* Linnaeus. At the same time he retained the name *Alydus* Fabricius, 1803, although *Coriscus*, 1796, and, 1801, had priority. Kirkcaldy 1900 (*Entomologist* 33 : 263) also asserted that “*dauci*=*calcaratus*” and that consequently *Alydus* Fabricius, 1803, was homotypical with *Coriscus* Schrank, 1796. In this he was followed by Stichel, 1925 (*Ill. Bestimm. Deuts. Wanzen* 2 : 46). Nevertheless, I do not see how

it is possible to synonymise *Coriscus dauci* Schrank with *Cimex calcaratus* Linnaeus in the face of such distinct structural differences and having regard to the author's definite statement to the effect that his "Möhrensichelwanze" was not *Cimex calcaratus* Linnaeus. I consider that it is better to ignore his colour description of *Coriscus dauci*, especially as in 1801 he associated with it a new species *Coriscus crassipes* which has since been synonymised with *Nabis ferus* (Linnaeus, 1758) by Reuter. This brings us to the school of thought which would associate *Coriscus* Schrank with the NABIDAE. Latreille in [1802—1803]³ (*Hist. nat. Crust. Ins.* 3 : 249), by stating "Voyez le genre *Coriscus* de Schr.," suggested that his new genus *Nabis* was identifiable with Schrank's genus. Stål 1873 (*Enum. Hemipt.* 3 : 112) followed up this suggestion and replaced *Nabis* Latreille, [1802—1803]³, by *Coriscus* Schrank, 1796, placing *Cimex ferus* and its allies in the typical subgenus *Coriscus*. This in effect made *Cimex ferus* Linnaeus (= *Cimex vagans* Fabricius, 1787 = *Miris vagans* Fabricius, 1794) the genotype, since Stål was the first real reviser of *Coriscus*, and *Miris vagans* Fabr. was the only recognisable original species in the group of species which he associated under the typical subgenus. The fact that Latreille in 1807 (*Gen. Crust. Ins.* 3 : 117) placed *Coriscus* in his omnibus genus *Coreus* (with *Alydus*) need not affect the case.

The generic description of *Coriscus* certainly agrees better with *Nabis* than with the Coreid genus *Alydus*, but unfortunately no known German Nabid agrees with Schrank's colour description of *Coriscus dauci*.

Summarising, there are thus three alternatives :—

1. To synonymise *Coriscus dauci* Schrank, 1801, with *Cimex calcaratus* Linnaeus, 1758, and thereby sink *Alydus* Fabricius, 1803, as a synonym of *Coriscus* Schrank, 1796 (as done by Reuter, Kirkaldy, Stichel) ;

2. To reject *Coriscus dauci* Schrank, 1801, as genotype of *Coriscus* Schrank, 1796, on the ground of being unidentifiable and to select *Coriscus crassipes* Schrank, 1801 (= *Cimex ferus* Linnaeus, 1758) as the genotype, at the same time sinking Schrank's genus as a synonym of *Nabis* Latreille, [1802—1803]³, which has been placed on the *Official List of Generic Names* (*Opinion* 104, 1928) ;

3. To set aside the genus *Coriscus* Schrank, 1796, and, 1801, until the genotype *Coriscus dauci* Schrank, 1801, can be recognised. Unless

³ Griffin (1938, *J. Soc. Bibl. nat. Hist.* 1 : 157) has shown that notwithstanding the fact that the title-page of the volume in which the name *Harpalus* Latreille was published bears the date "An X" of the French Revolutionary Calendar (i.e. Sept. 1801—Sept. 1802), that volume was not in fact published until some time in "An XI" (i.e. Sept. 1802—Sept. 1803).

a type specimen of *Coriscus dauci* Schrank exists, this would be tantamount to invalidating *Coriscus* since as a member of the very well-known German fauna, *dauci* would, if possible, have been identified long ago.

(b) Proposed suspension of the "Règles" for "Alydus" Fabricius, 1803, and "Coriscus" Schrank, 1796 (Class Insecta, Order Hemiptera)

By E. E. GREEN
(Camberley)

and

W. E. CHINA, M.A.

(Assistant Keeper in the Department of Entomology, British Museum
(Natural History))

We are of the opinion that greater confusion than uniformity would result if *Alydus* Fabricius, 1803 (type *Cimex calcaratus* Linnaeus, 1758, fixed by Curtis, 1831, *British Entomology* : 369) were replaced by the earlier name *Coriscus* Schrank, 1796. Apart from the fact that *Alydus* Fabricius had been in continuous use prior to 1925 when Stichel (*Illust. Bestimm. Deutsch. Wanzen* 2 : 46), following Kirkaldy 1900 (*Entomologist* 33 : 263), replaced it by *Coriscus* Schrank, 1796, the genus *Coriscus* is doubtfully identical with *Alydus* Fabricius. *Coriscus* Schrank, 1796 (*Samml. nat. phys. Aufsätze* 1 : 121) is monobasic, since the only species originally included in the genus was the Möhrensichelwanze, later named by Schrank, 1801 (*Fauna Boica* 2 (1) : 99) as *Coriscus dauci*. The genotype of *Coriscus* must therefore be *Coriscus dauci*. Schrank's Möhrensichelwanze was based on figures 2 and 3 of Tab. 123 in Schaeffer, [1776—1779], *Icon. Ins. Ratisbon.* Schrank actually declared that these figures did not represent *Cimex calcaratus* Linnaeus (the genotype of *Alydus*) and his description of the new genus and species differed from *Cimex calcaratus* Linnaeus in several important structural points. In fact, *Coriscus* Schrank was referred by Latreille, 1802, and Stål, 1873, to the family NABIDAE, the latter using it instead of *Nabis* Latreille, [1802—1803].⁴ The genus *Nabis* Latreille, however, has been placed by the International Commission on the *Official List of Generic Names*. *Coriscus* Schrank therefore must either replace *Alydus* Fabricius, 1803 ; or be sunk as a synonym of *Nabis* Latreille, [1802—1803] ; or be set aside as based on an unidentifiable species.

We are of the opinion that it is highly desirable that in the exercise of the Plenary Power conferred on them by the International Zoological

⁴ For a note on the date here assigned to the name *Nabis* Latreille, see footnote 3.

Congress, the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature should as soon as possible take the steps laid down by the Congress for the promulgation of an *Opinion* to the following effect :—

Under suspension of the Rules (i) the name *Coriscus* Schrank, 1796, is hereby suppressed and (ii) *Alydus* Fabricius, 1803 (type : *Cimex calcaratus* Linnaeus, 1758, designated by Curtis, 1831) is hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*.

II.—THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

2. On receipt, the papers relating to the present case were given the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 160, and as soon as possible steps were taken to prepare this application for publication in the then newly established *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*. In so preparing this application, Mr. Hemming noted that the applicants had realised the connection between the name *Coriscus* Schrank, 1796 (which it was their object to prevent from superseding *Alydus* Fabricius) and the name *Nabis* Latreille, but had been under the erroneous impression that, because this name had been placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* (by *Opinion* 104), it could not in any circumstances be replaced by a senior synonym. In order to clear up this misconception, Mr. Hemming (on 15th September 1944) wrote to Dr. China, explaining that, when a name was placed on the *Official List*, it possessed absolute protection from senior synonyms only if it had been expressly validated by the Commission under its Plenary Powers and that, as *Nabis* Latreille had been placed on that *List* on the assumption that it was the oldest available name for the genus concerned and without resort to the Plenary Powers, it did not enjoy absolute protection but could be called in question if an available senior synonym were found to exist. In subsequent correspondence it was agreed between Mr. Hemming on the one hand and Dr. China and Mr. Green on the other hand that the only certain way of securing complete protection both for the name *Alydus* Fabricius and for the name *Nabis* Latreille would be to obtain from the International Commission a decision suppressing the name *Coriscus* Schrank under its Plenary Powers. Accordingly, Dr. China and Mr. Green decided to amend their

recommendation in this sense, and on 17th November 1944 they submitted the revised proposal set out in the last paragraph of the second of the two documents quoted in the first paragraph of the present *Opinion*.

3. The present application, amended as shown in the foregoing paragraph, was sent to the printer at the close of 1944, but, owing to difficulties arising from paper rationing, shortage of labour at the printing works and similar causes, publication did not actually take place until 31st March 1947 (China, 1947, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 1 : 273—274 ; Green & China, 1947, *ibid.* 1 : 275).

4. *Comment received from Dr. R. I. Sailer (United States Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.)* : After the present application had been sent to the printer for publication in the *Bulletin* but long before it was published, Dr. R. I. Sailer (*United States Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.*) wrote a letter on 12th January 1945 criticising the proposal submitted by Mr. Green and Dr. China in 1944 in Part 8 of *The Generic Names of British Insects* for the use of the Plenary Powers for the purpose of preserving the name *Alydus* Fabricius as against the name *Coriscus* Schrank. In the same letter Dr. Sailer referred to the connection with the present case of the name *Nabis* Latreille which (as noted by Dr. China) had been placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* by the Commission's *Opinion* 104. Dr. Sailer's letter was as follows :—⁵

Another matter which I should like to discuss is the proposed suspension of the Rules in the case presented by Green and China (*Generic Names of British Insects*, 1943, pt. 8, pp. 214—215) pertaining

⁵ As Dr. Sailer's letter was written before the publication in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* of the Green/China proposal in its definitive form, he was inevitably unaware that the applicants had revised their application in such a way that the position of the name *Nabis* Latreille on the *Official List* was fully protected. Accordingly, in order that Dr. Sailer might be fully informed of the latest stage of the present proposal, Mr. Hemming, in replying on 16th February 1945 to his letter of 12th January, wrote :—“When I recently re-examined this case for the purpose of preparing it for publication in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*, I observed that the case of *Nabis* was not adequately dealt with in the case as presented. I had some correspondence on this subject with Mr. China, with the result that he and Mr. Green agreed to a re-wording of the recommendation in this case to cover this aspect of the question and to ensure that the validity of *Nabis* shall not be impaired”.

to *Alydus Fabricius*, 1803. While *Coriscus* Schrank, 1796, has not been fixed in economic literature to any great extent it has been used consistently in taxonomic treatments since 1925, and some confusion will inevitably result from a return to *Alydus*. It is proposed by Green and China that the present type of *Coriscus*, *C. dauci* Schrank, 1801, be rejected on grounds of being based on an unidentifiable type, and that *Coriscus crassipes* Schrank, 1801, be accepted in its place. I trust that in taking such action the Commission would be aware that *Nabis* Latreille, 1802, is on the *Official List of Generic Names (Opinion 104)* because, as Stiles states, "The Secretary has personally checked these names and believes they are all nomenclatorially available and valid, and that, therefore, they can be adopted in harmony with the Rules instead of as *Nomina Conservanda*". From this it is clear that further action with regard to *Nabis* will be necessary in event of favorable action on the case concerning *Alydus* as proposed by Green and China.

As for the rejection of *dauci* Schrank, 1801, as genotype of *Coriscus*, I should like to point out that at least two important references pertaining to this problem are not cited by Green and China. Reuter, 1888 (*Revisio Synonymica Heteropterorum Palaearcticorum II*, page 534 of *Acta Societatis Scientiarum Fennicae, Tomus 15, Helsingfors*), sank *C. dauci* as a synonym of *Alydus calcaratus* (L.). It is true that Reuter admitted that certain discrepancies existed. Kirkaldy, 1900, seems to have followed this action rather than to have initiated the synonymy directly as suggested by Green and China. The second reference is that by Horváth, 1917 (*Ann. Mus. Nat. Hung. 15 : 378*). Horváth's action in synonymising *dauci* and *calcaratus* here appears to have been independent of either that of Reuter or Kirkaldy. His only qualifying remark is that Schrank's description was based on a mutilated specimen.

By way of summary, it is my opinion that since *Coriscus* has in the last twenty-five years become well established in the literature of Europe and the United States; that since its suppression, as proposed by Green and China, will endanger *Nabis*, a large and important genus in a different family; and that since the identity of the genotype in question has been established by two of our most noted authorities in the Hemiptera, definite disservice to the stability of hemipterous nomenclature will result should favorable action be taken by the Commission on the case concerning *Alydus* proposed by Green and China.

5. *Comment received from Dr. Th. Mortensen (Universitetets Zoologiske Museum, Copenhagen)*: The publication of the present application in the *Bulletin* elicited a letter of support from Dr. Th. Mortensen (*Universitetets Zoologiske Museum, Copenhagen*) who on 8th April 1947 wrote:—" *Coriscus* Schrank to be suppressed: Yes".

6. *Issue of Public Notices* : On 14th September 1947 a notice of the possible use, by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, of its Plenary Powers in the present case was issued to the serial publications prescribed by the Ninth International Congress of Zoology, Monaco, 1913. The publication of this notice elicited no objection to the action proposed.

III.—THE DECISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

7. The present application was considered by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature at the Fourteenth Meeting of its Paris Session held at the Sorbonne in the Amphithéâtre Louis-Liard on Monday, 26th July 1948 at 2030 hours. The following is an extract from the Official Record of the Proceedings of the International Commission, setting out the decision reached by it in this case at the foregoing meeting (Paris Session, 14th Meeting, Conclusion 19) (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 464—467) :—

THE COMMISSION agreed :—

(1) to use their Plenary Powers :—

(a) to suppress the name *Coriscus* Schrank, 1796 (Class Insecta, Order Hemiptera) for the purposes of Article 25, though not for those of Article 34 ;

(b) to validate the generic name *Alydus* Fabricius, 1803 (Class Insecta, Order Hemiptera) ;

(2) to place the generic name *Alydus* Fabricius, 1803 (type species, selected by Curtis, 1831 : *Cimex calcaratus* Linnaeus, 1758) on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* ;

(3) to place the name *Coriscus* Schrank, 1796, on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* ;

- (4) to confirm the entry on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* of the name *Nabis* Latreille [1802—1803] ;
- (5) to place the trivial name *calcaratus* Linnaeus, 1758 (as published in the binominal combination *Cimex calcaratus*) on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* ;
- (6) to render an *Opinion* recording the decisions specified in (1) to (5) above.

8. The original references for the names which appear in the decision set out in the immediately preceding paragraph are as follows :—

Alydus Fabricius, 1803, *Syst. Rhyng.* : 251
calcaratus, *Cimex*, Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 450
Coriscus Schrank, 1796, *Samml. nat. phys. Aufsätze* : 121.

The reference to the type-selection by Curtis for *Alydus* Fabricius, 1803, is :—Curtis, 1831, *Brit. Ent.* : pl. 369.

9. The gender of the generic name *Alydus* Fabricius, 1803, referred to in the decision quoted in paragraph 7 above, is masculine.

10. The decision in the present case was reported to, and approved by, the Section on Nomenclature of the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948, at its Sixth Meeting held on 26th July 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 5 : 114).

11. The Ruling given in the present *Opinion* was concurred in by the sixteen (16) Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners present at the Paris Session of the International Commission, namely :—

Beltrán *vice* Cabrera ; Boschma ; Bradley ; di Caporiacco ; Hemming ; Hindle *vice* Jordan ; Jorge *vice* do Amaral ; Kirby *vice* Stoll ; Lemche *vice* Dymond ; Mansour *vice* Hankó ; Metcalf *vice* Peters ; Riley *vice* Calman ; Rode ; Spärck *vice* Mortensen ; van Straelen *vice* Richter ; Usinger *vice* Vokes.

12. The Ruling given in the present *Opinion* was dissented from by no Commissioner or Alternate Commissioner present at the Paris Session.

13. At the time of the adoption of the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*, the expression prescribed for the second portion of the binomen which constitutes the scientific name of a species was the expression "trivial name" and the *Official List* reserved for recording such names was styled the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*, the word "trivial" appearing also in the title of the *Official Index* reserved for recording rejected and invalid names of this category. Under a decision taken by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen, 1953, the expression "specific name" was substituted for the expression "trivial name" and corresponding changes were made in the titles of the *Official List* and *Official Index* of such names (1953, *Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl.* : 21). The changes in terminology so adopted have been incorporated in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*.

14. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

15. The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion* Two Hundred and Forty-Four (244) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London this Fourteenth day of December, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Three.

*Secretary to the International Commission
on Zoological Nomenclature*

FRANCIS HEMMING

